

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 002195

53

ORIGIN ARA-10

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DRAFTED BY ARA:CAR:JRBURKE:JR
APPROVED BY ARA:HWSHLAUDEMAN
EUR:WE:WHMANGER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

INFO AMCONSUL PARAMARIBO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 002195

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV NL NA

SUBJECT: SURINAM--POST-INDEPENDENCE

1. ON INSTRUCTIONS, MINISTER VAN AERSSSEN OF THE DUTCH
EMBASSY CALLED ON DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY SHLAUDEMAN
(ARA) 12/31/74 TO DISCUSS SURINAM INDEPENDENCE.

2. VAN AERSSSEN STATED THAT THE GON HAD AGREED TO GRANT
INDEPENDENCE TO SURINAM BEFORE THE END OF CY 75. HE SAID
THAT A REALM COMMITTEE REPORT REVIEWING THE STEPS THAT
MUST BE TAKEN PRIOR TO INDEPENDENCE HAD BEEN ISSUED IN
OCTOBER IN THE HAGUE AND THAT, ON THE BASIS OF THE REPORT,
BILATERAL TALKS WOULD TAKE PLACE BETWEEN THE GOS AND THE
GON DURING THE MONTH OF JANUARY WITH A VIEW TOWARD AGREE-
ING ON SUCH MATTERS AS CITIZENSHIP, RESIDUAL SECURITY
RESPONSIBILITIES, ETC., IN PREPARATION FOR THE ACTUAL
MOVE TO INDEPENDENCE NOW ANTICIPATED FOR LATE 1975. HE
STATED FURTHER THAT INTER-MINISTERIAL DISCUSSIONS WERE
TAKING PLACE IN THE HAGUE AT THE PRESENT TIME TO
ESTABLISH A DUTCH POSITION IN PREPARATION FOR THESE TALKS.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 STATE 002195

AS AN OUTGROWTH OF THESE DISCUSSIONS, THE NETHERLANDS

GOVERNMENT FELT A NEED TO BEGIN A DIALOGUE WITH THE USG TO OBTAIN WASHINGTON VIEWS ON THE ROLE OF AN INDEPENDENT SURINAM IN THE HEMISPHERE, ITS PROSPECTS FOR OAS MEMBERSHIP AND ITS RELATIONS TO OTHER REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

MR. SHLAUDEMANN RESPONDED THAT THERE HAD NOT AS YET BEEN ANY POLICY REVIEW OF THE POST INDEPENDENCE RELATIONSHIP WITH SURINAM. IT WOULD PROBABLY BE THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE LATIN AMERICAN BUREAU THAT OUR CONSULATE GENERAL BE RAISED TO EMBASSY STATUS AFTER INDEPENDENCE. FURTHERMORE, AS HAD BEEN THE CASE WITH OTHER EUROPEAN METROPOLE POSSESSIONS, THE USG ANTICIPATED A CORDIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE GOS AFTER INDEPENDENCE.

3. AS FAR AS MEMBERSHIP IN THE OAS WAS CONCERNED, SHLAUDEMANN POINTED OUT THAT THE ORGANIZATION HAD UNDER ACTIVE REVIEW THE ENTIRE QUESTION OF THE ADMISSION OF NEW MEMBERS. HE RECALLED THAT GUYANA, DUE TO THE EXISTENCE OF A BORDER DISPUTE WITH VENEZUELA, HAD SO FAR BEEN DENIED MEMBERSHIP IN THE OAS, THOUGH JAMAICA, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO AND BARBADOS HAD BEEN ADMITTED. THE MEMBERSHIP QUESTION, HOWEVER, HAD BEEN COMPLICATED RECENTLY BY GRENADA'S APPLICATION. BECAUSE OF ITS RELATIVELY SMALL SIZE AND TINY POPULATION, THE GRENADIAN APPLICATION HAD BROUGHT THE MINI-STATE PROBLEM TO THE FORE.

4. AS FOR SURINAM MEMBERSHIP IN SUCH OTHER REGIONAL ENTITIES AS CARICOM AND THE CDB, SHLAUDEMANN NOTED THAT THIS WOULD DEPEND ON THE ATTITUDES OF THE MEMBERS OF THOSE BODIES. THE USG HAD, OF COURSE, CONSISTENTLY SUPPORTED REGIONAL INTEGRATION IN THE CARIBBEAN AREA.

5. IN RESPONSE TO VAN AERSSEN'S OBSERVATION THAT SURINAM'S SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS MIGHT BE A SUBJECT OF DISCUSSION, SHLAUDEMANN SAID HE ASSUMED THAT QUESTION WOULD BE ADDRESSED IN SURINAM'S TALKS WITH THE DUTCH. HE ALSO EXPLAINED TO THE MINISTER WHAT THE RIO TREATY IS AND WHO SUBSCRIBES TO IT.

6. THE MINISTER CONFESSED AT BEING SOMEWHAT AT A LOSS
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PAGE 03 STATE 002195

AS TO THE SPECIFICS OF HIS INSTRUCTIONS. HE ASSUMED, HOWEVER, THAT WHAT THE HAGUE HAD IN MIND WAS THE OPENING OF A CHANNEL BETWEEN THE USG AND THE GON FOR THE DISCUSSION OF ISSUES INVOLVING SURINAM AS INDEPENDENCE APPROACHED. THE MINISTER INQUIRED AS TO WHETHER THE DEPARTMENT FAVORED THE HAGUE OR WASHINGTON AS THE MORE SUITABLE VENUE FOR SUCH A DIALOGUE. MR. SHLAUDEMANN REPLIED BY SAYING THAT THERE WAS NO SPECIAL PREFERENCE

AT THIS TIME. HE THOUGHT, HOWEVER, THAT AS INDEPENDENCE APPROACHES THE MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST MIGHT MORE GENERALLY FALL WITHIN ARA'S RESPONSIBILITIES.

7. THE MINISTER SAID THAT HE WOULD BE REPORTING THESE VIEWS TO THE HAGUE AND WOULD BE BACK IN TOUCH UPON RECEIPT OF FRESH, POSSIBLY MORE SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS. BEFORE THE MINISTER TOOK HIS DEPARTURE, SHLAUDEMANN OBSERVED THAT THOUGH THERE HAD BEEN NO GENERAL POLICY LEVEL REVIEW OF THE POST INDEPENDENCE RELATIONSHIP WITH SURINAM, WE COULD BE DEFINITE ON THE POINT THAT THERE WOULD BE NO BILATERAL US ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR SURINAM AFTER INDEPENDENCE.

8. ACTION REQUESTED: ANY LIGHT EMBASSY HAGUE CAN SHED ON PURPOSE BEHIND THIS DEMARCHE WOULD BE APPRECIATED.

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